REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on September 22, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 2-19 and 40-42. Claims 1, 20-24, 27, 36, 37, 39 and 43 have been amended, and claims 44-46 have been added to the application. Claims 1, 27 and 39 are the independent claims, and claims 1, 20-39 and 43-46 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's Action has rejected all of the independent claims and various dependent claims as being anticipated by *Syed et al.* (USP 6,545,220). Because independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 18 and 19, and claim 39 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 41 and 42, these rejections against these independent claims have been rendered moot, since neither claim 19 nor claim 42 were rejected as being anticipated by this reference. Moreover, independent claim 27, and the claims dependent therefrom, are submitted to be *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited reference since the cited reference does not disclose or suggest a conductive adhesive that bonds the cable and the cable clamp, as amended in claim 27. As such, it is requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

The Examiner's Action has also rejected various ones of the dependent claims as being obvious over *Syed et al.* in view of *Damn et al.* (USP 6,118,076). Applicants will treat these rejections as pertaining to independent claims 1, 27 and 39, and the claims dependent therefrom. It is submitted that these claims are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited combination of references for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' independent claim 1 is directed to a device used in connection with at least one cable having a conductive shield. The device includes a conductive cable clamp that includes a conductive flexible fabric having a star-shaped pattern formed therein which accommodates the cable therein. The pattern includes a plurality of evenly spaced slits which radially extend outward from a center of the pattern. Every two adjacent slits form a triangular flap. Applicants' independent claim 39 recites similar features in a method format. This configuration corresponds with the second disclosed embodiment, such as shown in figures 6-9. This claimed configuration (and method, as recited in claim 39) is neither disclosed nor suggested by cited references.

Syed et al. disclose a shielded cable system which includes a clamp assembly for establishing a grounded connection between a shielded cable 100 and an electrical housing or chassis. The clamp assembly includes a separable block 300 having at least one aperture 302 formed therein. The aperture 302 contains a series of continuous pressure ridges which exert a compressive force on the shielded cable 100. This reference also discloses that a cable mounting

panel 500, such as shown in figure 5, includes a receptacle 502 which receives the separable block 300. This reference also discloses that an electrically conductive mechanically compliant gasket 600 may be provide within the receptacle 502, and disposed between a face of the separable block 300 and a lip 602 of the mounting panel 500, as shown in figure 6. This reference teaches that the gasket 600 forms an EMI seal.

However, and in contrast to the present invention, this gasket does not include a star-shaped pattern which accommodates a cable therein, nor a star-shaped pattern which includes a plurality of evenly spaced slits which radially extend outward from a center of the pattern, with every two adjacent slits forming a triangular flab, as recited in both claims 1 and 39. The Examiner's Action thus also relies on the teachings of *Damn et al.*, which disclose a cable seal insert as shown in figure 4, which includes two opposed plates 11, 12, which are formed from a plastic material (see column 5, lines 60-62). A gel sealing material 19 lies between the plates 11, 12. The Examiner's Action states that this reference teaches that the sealing material 19 comprises a pattern that may be any shape (column 5, lines 63-67). However, the Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that column 5, lines 63-67 does not state that the pattern of the sealing material may be of any shape. Instead, this particular passage from this patent states that the cable seal insert peripheral surface may be of a different shape than which is disclosed. That is, the shape that can be modified is not the shape of the pattern of the gel sealing material, but is instead the shape of the overall configuration of

the cable seal insert 7. Moreover, even if the shape of the sealing material could be modified, there is no suggestion that the shape could be star-shaped, as recited in the claims.

The Examiner's Action also states that it would have been obvious to modify the sealing material of *Syed et al.* to comprise a star-shaped aperture since it has allegedly been held that a change in form can not sustain patentability where involved is only extended application of obvious attributes from a prior art. However, it is respectfully queried what are these obvious attributes from a prior art that the Action is alluding to? That is, the case relied on by the Examiner does not stand for the proposition that claimed elements or features can be disregarded in establishing a rejection under Section 103. Moreover, Applicants' specification makes clear that the claimed configuration of the pattern provides the invention with important characteristics, which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Moreover, *Damn et al.* do not disclose or suggest a star-shaped pattern that includes a plurality of evenly spaced slits that radially extend outward from a center of the pattern with every two adjacent slits forming a triangular flap. In fact, it appears that the Action has completely overlooked the feature of the triangular flap recited within original claims 19 and 42, since it does not appear that this feature has been addressed at all. As such, it is submitted that Applicants' independent claims 1 and 39 are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Moreover, Applicants' independent claim 27 has been amended to recite that a conductive adhesive bonds the cable in the cable clamp. In contrast, neither one of the cited references appears to disclose or otherwise suggest utilizing a conductive adhesive to bond the cable in a cable clamp, as recited by this claim. It is thus requested that this claim be allowed.

Moreover, it is submitted that the claims dependent from independent claims 1 and 27 are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as these independent claims, as well as the following additional reasons presented below.

In particular, Applicants' dependant claims 21 and 34 recite that the star-shaped patterns are arranged in a row. However, neither of the cited references discloses or otherwise suggests star-shaped patterns, so that none of the cited references can possibly disclose or suggest star-shaped patterns being arranged in a row. It is thus requested that these claims additionally be allowed.

Moreover, dependant claim 22 recites that the fabric is adhered over a layer of foam. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner states that *Damn et al.* teach that the sealing material 19 may be adhered over a layer of foam, and refers to column 5, lines 56-59. However, this passage does not disclose or suggest that the sealing material 19 may be adhered over a layer of foam. Instead, this passage only states that the sealing material may be comprised of a foam. There is no discussion of adhering the sealing material over a layer of foam, as recited by this claim.

Moreover, dependent claims 23, 35 and 43 recite that the cable clamp includes upper and lower ridged conductive plates. The Examiner's Action contends that *Damn et al.* disclose upper and lower ridged plates, but has not even addressed the conductiveness of these plates in presenting the rejection. In fact, *Damn et al.* disclose that these plates are comprised of a plastic material, which are likely of an insulative material, so not only does this reference not disclose or suggest conductive plates, but reference would appear to teach away from such conductive plates, as recited by Applicants' dependent claims 23, 35 and 43.

Further, dependent claims 26 and 37 each recites that a front edge of the fabric extends pass a front edge of the upper plate and pass a front edge of the lower plate, and that a rear edge of one of the plates and the rear edge of the fabric abuts against a rear flange which is disposed on the other plate. The Examiner's Action relies on the embodiment shown in figure 4 for this part of the rejection. However, it is noted that the embodiment shown in figure 4 does not appear to disclose or suggest a rear flange against which a rear edge of the plate and a rear edge of the fabric abuts against. As such, it requested that all of these claims be allowed.

Moreover, it is submitted that dependent claims 31 and 32 are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as those presented above with respect to independent claim 1, which recites

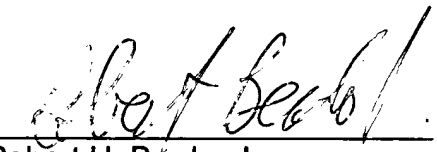
similar features found within these dependent claims. It is thus requested that these claims be allowed and that these rejections be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicants have added claims 44-46, which recite further features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references. It is requested that these claims also be allowed.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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